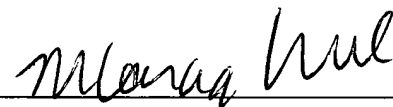


REMARKS

The present application has been amended to recite that it is the national stage filing of corresponding international application number PCT/IB2004/004233, filed December 21, 2004, which claims priority to and the benefit of the European application no. 03079014.1, filed December 22, 2003. Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 8, 15, 23, 28-31, 38-43, 45-47 have been amended. New claims 44, 48-49 have been added to this national stage U.S. filing. No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fees are deemed necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2168.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Noone", is written over a horizontal line.

Dated: June 21, 2006

M. Caragh Noone, Reg. No. 37,197

Bracco Research USA

305 College Road East

Princeton, NJ 08540

Tel: (609) 514-2454

Fax: (609) 514-2446